

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 IO-13 OMB-01 BIB-01 /081 W

-----032244Z 058156 /64

R 031505Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3858

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5006

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJ: LOEWE EXPULSION

REF: A) BERLIN 7368; B) BONN 21566

1. EAST BERLIN PAPERS DECEMBER 31 CARRY BRIEF ADN ITEM,
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REPORTING THAT THE GDR "EMPHATICALLY" REJECTED FRG

PERMREP CHIEF GAUS'S PROTEST NOTE ON THE EXPULSION OF

LOTHAR LOEWE (REFTEL A). THE ADN ITEMS NOTES THAT LOEWE

WAS EXPELLED 1) BECAUSE HE HAD MADE "SERIOUS OFFENSES"

AGAINST GDR LEGAL SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY THE REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE ACTIVITY OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN THE

GDR; 2) BECAUSE OF THE "GROSSEST DEFAMATION" OF THE

GDR, AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONTINUING INTERFERENCE IN THE GDR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN MAKING PUBLIC THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS REJECTION TO GAUS'S OFFICIAL PROTEST, THE REGIME CLEARLY WISHES TO PUT ITSELF ON RECORD THAT IT WILL NOT REVERSE ITS STAND AND THAT IT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER MEDIA FLACK MAY COME FROM WEST GERMANY. THE EAST GERMANS PROBABLY REASON THAT, HAVING BEEN THROUGH A SIMILAR DRILL A YEAR AGO WITH THE EXPULSION OF SPIEGEL CORRESPONDENT JORG METTKE, THE UPROAR IN WEST GERMANY WILL DIE DOWN QUICKLY AND PRETTY MUCH BE FORGOTTEN. THEY MAY ALSO CALCULATE THAT, GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING POSITIVE IN SCHMIDT'S GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TOWARD THE GDR, THERE IS NO REASON -- IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE -- TO BE TO CONCERNED ABOUT BONN'S WARNING ABOUT AVOIDING A "PERMANENT BURDEN" ON FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

2. WE THINK THE REASONS FOR LOEWE'S OUSTER ARE CLEAR (BONN 21566). THEY RELATE TO LOEWE HIMSELF AND THE WAY HE APPROACHED HIS JOB, AND, SECONDLY, TO THE MORE GENERAL PROBLEM THE REGIME HAS WITH WEST GERMAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES HERE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE TV. UNLESS ONE LIVES HERE, ONE PROBABLY IS NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPACT WEST GERMAN MEDIA, PARTICULARLY TV, HAS ON THE GDRPOPULATION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO LOEWE, HE WAS BORN HERE, HAD NUMEROUS FRIENDS AND CONTACTS, AND CONSIDERS HIMSELF A BERLINER. IN A SENSE, HE HAD A COMMITMENT TO BERLIN WHICH OTHER FRG MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT HAVE. AS A REPORTER, HE WAS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE -- SOME WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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SAY TOO AGGRESSIVE -- IN FERRETING OUT AND REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WERE NOT PLEASING TO THE REGIME. HE BROUGHT INTO GDR LIVING ROOMS INTERVIEWS WITH RIESA RESIDENTS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE THE GDR AND THE BURIAL OF PASTOR BRUSEWITZ, FOR EXAMPLE, THUS PROVIDING A VISUAL IMAGE OF THINGS IN THE GDR ABOUT WHICH THE AVERAGE CITIZEN MIGHT HAVE HAD ONLY THE FAINTEST IDEA, AND WHICH THE REGIME FOUND INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO TOLERATE. THE REGIME WAS LAYING FOR HIM; THEY HAD PROVIDED HIM WITH A LIST OF HIS "VIOLATIONS" OF GDR LAWS, AND THEY HAD ALREADY ASKED ARD TO WITHDRAW HIM IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE EAST GERMANS NO DOUBT HAD THE SUPPORT, IF NOT THE BLESSING AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SOVIETS, SINCE THEY HAD THROWN HIM OUT OF THE USSR FOR SOME OF HIS REPORTING.

4. LOEWE, FOR WHATEVER REASON, PLAYED INTO GDR HANDS ON DECEMBER 21 WITH HIS USE OF THE PHRASE ABOUT SHOOTING PEOPLE LIKE HARES. THE REGIME USED THE PRETEXT OF THIS OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE AND THE OCCASION OF THE HOLIDAY

SEASON TO GET RID OF A REAL IRRITANT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO USE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER CORRESPONDENTS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY HOW FAR LOEWE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUSH GDR TOLERATION.

5. IN A MORE GENERAL SENSE, THE REGIME HAS FOR A LONG TIME HAD A PROBLEM OF HOW TO HANDLE WEST GERMAN MEDIA TRANSMISSIONS, PARTICULARLY TV AND RADIO, WHICH CAN BE SEEN OR HEARD THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE GDR. WHEN A WEST GERMAN TV OR RADIO CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM EAST BERLIN ABOUT THE RISING NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO LEAVE THE GDR, HE IS HEARD IN EAST GERMANY AND COULD WELL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DESIRE OF OTHER EAST GERMANS WHO MIGHT ALSO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT DOING THE SAME. THEY ARE THUS NOT ONLY REPORTING INFORMATION BUT ALSO CREATING ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE REGIME TO COPE WITH. AND THE REGIME HAS NO EASY ANSWERS, EXCEPT TO HOPE THAT

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AN OCCASIONAL EXPULSION WILL HELP KEEP THE MEDIA WITHIN LINE, HOWEVER ILL-DEFINED.

6. WHILE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE WESTERN CHARGES THAT IT HAS VIOLATED THE FRG/GDR BASIC AGREEMENT AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, THE REGIME HAS BUILT ITS COUNTER-ARGUMENT. THEY PROBABLY WOULD ASSERT THAT LOEWE VIOLATED GDR REGULATIONS AND LAWS, INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR IN HIS REPORTING. THEY PROBABLY WOULD ALSO CLAIM, AS THEY ALREADY HAVE THROUGH THE IZVESYA IVANOV ARTICLE (REFTEL A) THAT HIS ACTIVITY WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF CSCE AND THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS MAY SAY, IT

IS THE GDR VIEW THAT JOURNALISTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABIDE BY AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE DOCUMENT. AND WHILE THE WEST GERMANS PROTEST LOEWE'S EXPULSION AS A VIOLATION OF CSCE, THE EAST GERMANS COUNTER THAT THE ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF EAST GERMAN JOURNALISTS AT THE THE FRG/GDR BORDER ON DECEMBER 19 IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH CSCE. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770002-0462
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770186/aaaacxff.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 55e6e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 7368, 77 BONN 21566
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3675210
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOEWE EXPULSION
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE, (LOEWE, LOTHAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55e6e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009